GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3924
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made any observation stating that no considerable progress has been achieved in the development of agriculture sector in the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the researches being undertaken to promote new techniques for the development of agriculture sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan had drawn attention to the loss of dynamism in agriculture and allied sector after the mid 1990s.The growth rate of agricultural GDP during Tenth Five Year Plan was less than the target of 4% per annum.However,in the last two years of the Tenth Plan i.e.2005-06 and 2006-07,agriculture sector recorded an average growth rate of 4.35%.However,for revitalization of agriculture and allied sector,Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007,with provisions which,inter alia include, asset reforms in respect of land,water,livestock,fisheries and bio-resources;support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; the agricultural bio-security system;supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; measures to improve soil health and integrated nutrient and pest management system etc.In addition,Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes.Besides, a number of initiatives, plan schemes and programmes have been taken up which include National Bamboo Mission, National Horticulture mission, Micro Irrigation, Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management and schemes covered under Macro Management of Agriculture.

(d): The research priorities of XI Plan include adaptation of agriculture to climate change, availability of quality seed,enhancing water and input use efficiency and conservation of natural resources through conservation agriculture.Emphasis is being laid on the use of modern tools including biotechnology,marker assisted breeding, hybrid technology etc.The research focus is on basic and strategic research and addressing issues from production to consumption system, sustainable livelihood security in disadvantaged area.To generate regionally differentiated technologies, research agenda has been re-oriented through mid-term and long-term programmes for laying stress on location specific research for enhancing productivity particularly in the arid and fragile agro-ecosystem.